



Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer
Iowa's First Congressional District

Fighting for Iowa's Farmers & Rural Way of Life

Congresswoman Finkenauer's Eight Priorities for Iowa Agriculture

Agriculture is part of our way of life in Iowa. Not only do we lead the nation in exports of corn, soybeans and pork, but have also been at the forefront of conservation and value-added production. As such, much of our economy is organized around agriculture—from the factory floor at John Deere to our food processing and shippers on the Mississippi River to the state's strong renewable fuels sector. Our farmers and the rural economy make Northeast Iowa somewhere that folks can work hard, raise a family, and build a good life.

While farming has never been easy—the increasing cost of production, low commodity prices exacerbated by the trade war, coupled with unpredictable weather patterns—have made it even more difficult to plan. As older farmers retire, there are fewer younger ones or family members to take their places and some operations can simply no longer bear the financial risk. Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer is taking action to ensure that Iowa's agriculture economy and rural communities remain strong for generations to come.

Expand Markets Abroad and Reduce Barriers to Trade: Congresswoman Finkenauer knows farmers rely on export markets and need certainty when it comes to relationships with our trading partners. She is working toward a long-term trade strategy that protects access to existing markets and opens new ones abroad that is fair to our workers and domestic industries, while leaning our allies for strength.

Support New and Beginning Farmers: The average age of the American farmer is around 58 years old, and in Iowa, farmers over the age of 75 have increased by 28% since 2012. To ensure the continued success of Iowa agriculture, Congresswoman Finkenauer wants to make sure new and beginning farmers have what they need to start and grow their operations.

Invest in our Locks and Dams and other Critical Infrastructure: Our roads, bridges, and inland waterways play an important role in getting Iowa goods to market. She is prioritizing funding for much-needed repairs as well as new investments in resilient infrastructure as our weather becomes increasingly unpredictable. Congresswoman Finkenauer also recognizes that high-speed internet is part of doing business in the 21st century and she is committed to making sure our farmers and rural business owners have what they need to run their operation efficiently.

Protect Crop Insurance and Support a Robust Farm Safety Net: Our farmers don't want a hand-out, but they need the peace of mind that comes with a strong farm safety net. She opposes reckless cuts to crop insurance and knows that farmers rely on these important tools to manage their risk. Farmers are among our best stewards of the land. When it comes to harnessing renewable energy sources or



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implementing conservation practices, Congresswoman Finkenauer believes we should have collaborative and incentive-based approach.

Ease Regulatory Burdens for Farmers and Producers: At times, government rules and regulations don't account for the challenges that come with running a farming operation or are created without a full understanding of the impacts on the ground. Congresswoman Finkenauer will make sure that farmers have a seat at the table when it comes to policies that effect their livelihood and stand up for common-sense reforms that work for Iowa agriculture.

Promote our Renewable Fuels Sector and other Domestic Markets: In Iowa, the biofuels industry supports 48,000 jobs and account for \$5 billion in GDP. To preserve this important market for our corn and soy, Congresswoman Finkenauer stands with our biofuel producers and is fighting to keep the renewable fuels sector strong.

Support Entrepreneurship and Revitalization in Rural Economies: Small businesses represent over 99 percent of Iowa's businesses and are the lifeblood of many rural communities. To attract and keep talent in Iowa, we must invest in our entrepreneurs. Congresswoman Finkenauer wants to develop a strong agriculture supply chain that includes our rural small businesses as well as increase these businesses' access to capital and to contracting opportunities.

Secure a Strong Future for Agriculture: Congresswoman Finkenauer recognizes that in order to feed the world, we need to stay on top of advances in science. She supports investments in agriculture research to develop new markets and uses for bio-based products, bolster our biosecurity, and ensure our country leads the world in sustainable agriculture production for generations to come.